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NO. 7216 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1988 SHABAN 19, 1408 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILLS

24 women passengers freed : Release of 17 prisoners demanded

Kuwaiti airliner hijacked to Iran

NICOSIA, April 5, (Agencies): Arab hijackers today seized a Kuwait Airways jumbo whose passengers included three members of Kuwait's royal family and forced it to land in Mashhad, northeast Iran, demanding the release of 17 "political prisoners" held in Kuwait.

Decision

The hijackers have freed 24 women passengers, the Iranian news agency Irna said.

The agency gave no other details about the passengers still held on board the plane.

It said the decision followed the efforts of a delegation headed by Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Ali Reza Moayeri.

Irna reported that the hijackers said in a statement radioed to the control tower at Mashhad airport: "We ask you Iranian officials to mediate between us and the Kuwaiti government if you want."

The release of the 17 jailed in Kuwait for political violence is a frequent demand of militants.

The hijackers' statement stressed: "This is our main demand..."

we are ready to cooperate with them (the Kuwaiti government) and if they accept our demand we will prove our goodwill.

"If you do not want to mediate, we ask for fuel and other needs and then we will take off," Irna reported.

The agency said earlier that the hijackers threatened to blow up the Boeing 747 if Iranian security forces approached it.

It was not clear whether the Iranian forces agreed to refuse the jetliner.

But Irna and Tehran Radio, said Iranian security forces surrounded the plane on the tarmac at Mashhad to prevent it taking off.

The flight KU 422 originated in Bangkok. The plane, Al Jahriya, was commandeered three hours after it took off from Bangkok on a flight to Kuwait, with 97 passengers and 15 crew members aboard.

Freed

One traveller, a Jordanian with "a heart condition," was freed several hours after the plane landed at Mashhad at 7:30 am (0400 GMT), the Islamic Republic news agency reported.

The freed passenger, businessman Mustafa Issa, 42, later appeared on Tehran television, and said there were "six or seven" hijackers, armed with handbombs and pistols.

"They told us: 'Don't worry, we are after redressing our rights denied by the Kuwaiti government.' They tied the passengers' hands and seated them in the rear section of the plane."

Kuwait aviation sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the hijacked plane's pilot is an Iraqi and the other crew members are 12 Arabs, a Thai and a Filipino. The co-pilot is a Syrian.

The plane was supplied with water and a "charger" to keep its air conditioning working following demands by the hijackers, the Iranian agency reported.

Problem

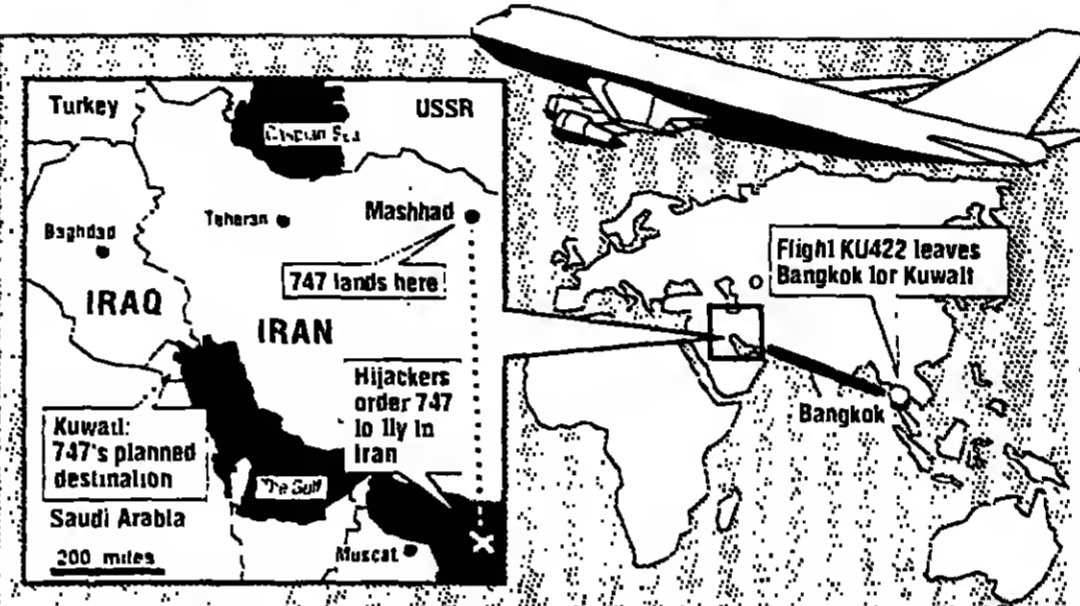
The Kuwait government, its relations with Tehran strained over the 7-1/2-year-old Iran-Iraq war, urged Iran to handle the incident carefully.

Iran's powerful Parliament Speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, said: "Despite Kuwait's insistence we have asked our officials to solve the problem immediately."

Otherwise, he said, the plane must leave Iran.

Iranian Prime Minister Hossein Mousavi said Iran was trying to "resolve the incident peacefully to save the lives of the people on board," Tehran Radio reported.

Moayeri, earlier in the day went to Mashhad to negotiate with the hijackers and requested that all women aboard the plane be released.



had at 7:30 am (0400 GMT) "solely for humanitarian reasons," an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman told Irna.

The Kuwait news agency quoted a spokesman for the airline as saying contact was lost with the aircraft while it flew over Muscat, Oman, in the southern Gulf.

Mashhad is a city of 1.5 million people close to Iran's borders with the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

Hezbollah men held in Bangkok

By Lima Al Khalafawi

ARAB TIMES has learnt that four of the collaborators of the hijackers were arrested in Bangkok and have been identified as members of the Hezbollah. They are being questioned.

Aviation sources in Kuwait said Kuwait Airways flights on the Kuwait-Bangkok route, unlike many of the airline's other flights, did not carry armed security guards as security at Bangkok airport was considered adequate.

In December 1984, four men seeking the release of the 17 Arabs hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner to Tehran and shot dead two American passengers before Iranian security guards stormed the plane and seized them. Their fate has not been revealed.

US, UK condemn hijacking

UNITED NATIONS, April 5, (Agencies): UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he was appalled by the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner today and appealed for the immediate release of the passengers.

The United States and Britain condemned the hijacking. "For compelling humanitarian reasons, the secretary-general appeals to the hijackers to release immediately the passengers on board," said his spokesman Francois Giuliani, reading from a statement.

The United Nations has consistently condemned hijacking and taking of hostages as illegal and unjustifiable, the statement from the secretary-general said.

The British government today condemned the hijacking.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said that "this is a totally unacceptable act of terrorism."

He recalled that Britain has in the past condemned such acts against civilian aircraft.

The spokesman pointed out "we are extremely worried about the incident."

"We condemn this hijacking as we do all such acts of terrorism," Deputy State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters. "We urge the government of Iran to live up to its responsibilities to resolve the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice."

Emergency cabinet meeting held

Delegation will be sent to help free plane

KUWAIT will send a delegation to Iraq to help Iranian authorities free 111 people on a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner in the city of Mashhad.

The cabinet approved the measure during an emergency cabinet session last night.

Rashed Al Rashed, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, said Iran had asked for a Kuwaiti delegation. He did not say where or when the group would go.

The extraordinary cabinet meeting was held at the Shaah Palace under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to discuss the developments on the hijack.

Briefed

Rashed said after the meeting that the cabinet was briefed on all contacts that took place between the Iranian authorities and the hijackers to ensure release of the plane and its passengers.

The Kuwaiti cabinet expressed

satisfaction with statements by Iranian officials which showed their concern for the passengers' safety, Rashed said.

Earlier, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said Iran was trying to end the matter peacefully and rejected hijacking.

Rashed said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent a letter to Deputy Premier Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, expressing similar views.

"To reinforce the efforts made by officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in response to a request by Iranian authorities, the cabinet has decided to send a delegation from Kuwait to facilitate the mission of the Iranian authorities to free the hijacked passengers," Rashed said.

The cabinet hoped the Iranian efforts will be successful in ensuring the release of the plane and its passengers.

Kuwait asks Tehran to keep the plane grounded

KUWAIT yesterday asked Iran to prevent a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner from taking off from the Iranian city of Mashhad.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry asked Iranian authorities to prevent the plane taking off from Mashhad, a city of 1.5 million in the north-eastern corner of Iran close to the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

The Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait and urged his government to settle the matter quickly and carefully.

"Kuwait is confident that the relevant authorities in Iran will deal with this matter wisely and in such a way as to preserve the safety of the passengers, crew and plane," a ministry official said.

"It hopes that Iranian authorities will be able to end this unfortunate incident as quickly as possible," the official added.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said the Iranian government was trying to solve the hijack problem peacefully.

Tehran radio quoted him as saying: "The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any move which might endanger the lives of innocent people."

"These moves are not correct from an ideological and humanitarian point of view. Neither are they politically correct."

"In view of the request made by the Kuwaiti government, at present the responsible officials are trying to solve the problem in a peaceful manner and to save the lives of the passengers."

Three Sabah family members on board

BANGKOK, April 5, (AP): Three members of Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family were among 112 passengers and crew members aboard a Kuwaiti Airways jetliner hijacked to Iran, an airline official said today.

Elias H. Shiber, country manager for Kuwait Airways, said the Boeing 747 departed Bangkok international airport at 3:30 am Tuesday (2030 GMT) and was hijacked one hour and 50 minutes before its scheduled landing in Kuwait.

Shiber released a list of 97 passengers aboard the aircraft. Earlier reports had said the plane carried 96 passengers and a crew of 15.

Passports

The passenger list included 30 Kuwaitis, 20 Britons, eight Thais, four people each from Pakistan, Egypt, Ireland and Bahrain, three each from Jordan, Austria and Syria, two each from Germany, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and one each from Korea, Japan, Singapore, Palestinian, Colombian and Lebanon.

One other passenger held both US and Egyptian passports while another's nationality was not known, Shiber said.

The crew members included four Egyptians, three each from Kuwait and Jordan, and one each from Yemen, Sudan, Iraq, the Philippines and Thailand.

The airline could not immediately say if the two passengers with German passports were from East or West Germany, or if the crew member was from North or South Yemen.

Shiber said the first class passenger list included three members of Al Sabah family: Hitesam Khaled Al Sabah, Fadi Khaled Al Sabah and the wife of Khaled Anwar Al Sabah.

Britain said today that 20 of its nationals were aboard the hijacked plane.

In London, the Foreign Office said earlier that 22 Britons were among the passengers.

A review of the passenger list showed two of those believed to be British were Irish nationals, a spokesman said.

The passenger list issued by Kuwait Airways in Bangkok listed 22 Britons. But the Foreign Office said two of the passengers identified as British by the airline, Giza Bela Kurucz and Erzsabet Katalin Kurucz, were not on its list from the British embassy in Kuwait.

The Foreign Office, saying officials were "extremely worried," added it knew of no special reason why such a high proportion of the passengers were British.

The airline's London office said it believed that some of the Britons on board the Bangkok-Kuwait flight had been due to change planes in Kuwait and catch a connecting flight to London later.

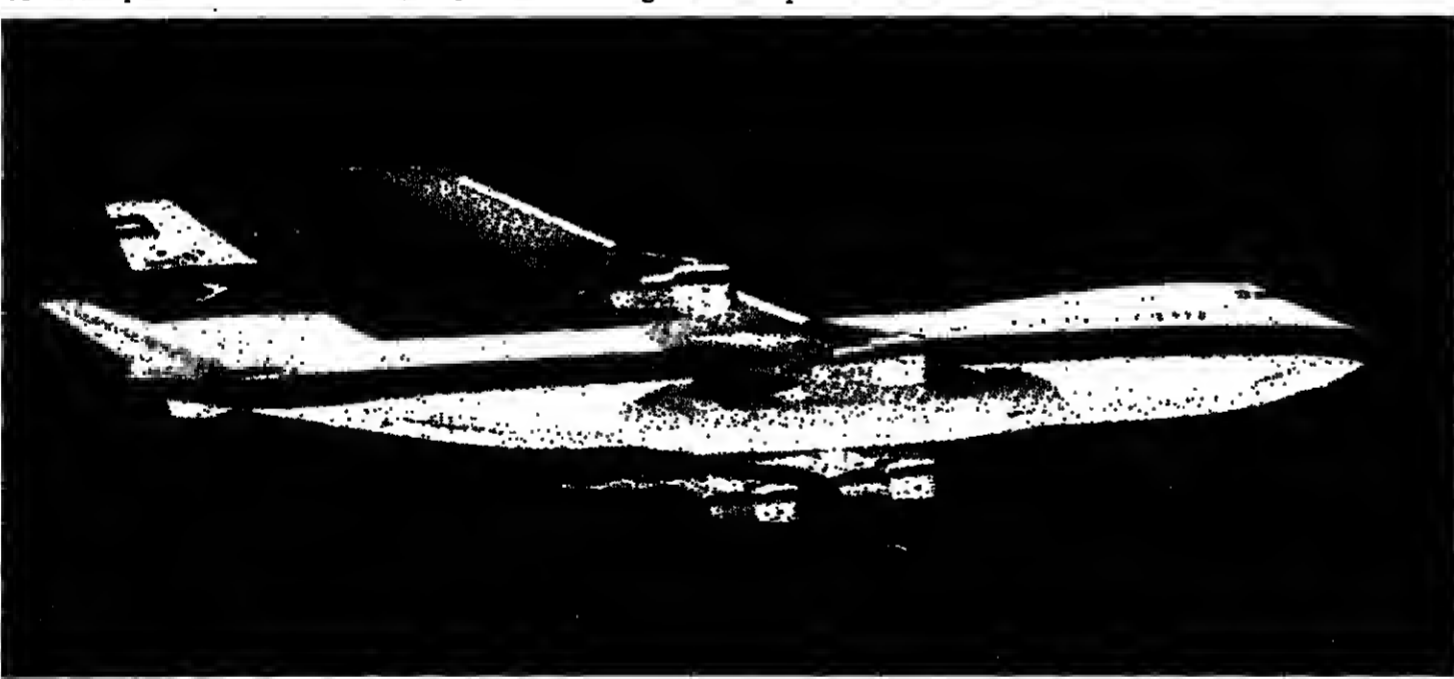
"Normally they would have been back in the United Kingdom by this afternoon," Terry Lee, Kuwait Airways sales manager in Britain told reporters.

Britain closed its embassy in Iran in 1980 after the US embassy there was seized. Britain withdrew its remaining diplomats, who were in the Swedish mission, last May after a diplomat was beaten up following the arrest in Britain of an Iranian envoy on shoplifting charges.

Hotel fire

BLACKPOOL, April 5, (AP): Five people, including three children, died today when fire swept through a hotel believed to have been used by the government to house unemployed people and their families, police and fire officials said.

Seventeen others were injured in the mid-afternoon blaze at the Leher Mount Hotel in its popular north England seaside resort and convention site, said Lancashire Constabulary, the regional police force.



A file photo of the hijacked jumbo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iranian missile hits Baghdad

BAGHDAD, April 5, (Agencies): An Iranian missile hit Baghdad today hours after Bulgarian Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov began an official visit to the Iraqi capital, a military spokesman said.

He said the missile landed on a residential area killing or wounding an unspecified number of people and damaging property.

Baghdad television said Atanasov had talks with President Saddam Hussein today and delivered a message from Bulgarian head of state Todor Zhivkov dealing with bilateral relations.

Ancient

The Iranian missile hit Baghdad after five Iraqi missiles were fired at Iranian cities, two at Tehran, two at the holy city of Qom and one at the ancient capital of Isfahan, Iran said three people were killed in Qom.

Iraq fired a missile at Isfahan yesterday hours after an Iranian missile raid on the Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk, where an Iraqi spokesman said several people were killed or wounded.

It said the attacks were in reprisal for raids on Iranian cities in

which 21 people were killed. The tit-for-tat attacks marked the full resumption of the "war of the cities" after a three-day halt last weekend.

An Iraqi military spokesman said that apart from the missiles fired at Tehran, Baghdad also fired two missiles at the holy city of Qom and one at the historical city of Isfahan in central Iran.

He said Iraqi jets also raided the western Iranian town of Hamadan and the southwestern town of Dezful. Tehran Radio said the raid on Hamadan hit residential areas.

The radio said Iranian anti-aircraft gunners shot down an Iraqi PC-7 jet over Sulaymaniyah province, where Iranian forces seized a swathe of territory in an offensive last month.

Iraq yesterday accused Iran of using chemical weapons saying 88 of its soldiers were in a Baghdad hospital suffering from the effects of Iranian chemical weapons.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz asked UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to send a mission to visit the soldiers.

Relatives anxious for information

By Jadranka Porter

IN Kuwait the anxious relatives and friends of the hostages were listening to the radio, contacting newspapers and their embassies for information.

A spokesman for the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd in Kuwait said the company received a call from the family of Masato Otsuzuku, 41, who is on the hijacked flight.

"We have no information, we just don't know what to tell them," he said. Otsuzuku, who has already spent three months in Kuwait, went to Japan to complete the formalities related to his residence and was on his way back to Kuwait.

Fateful

He was to take the position of assistant site manager at the Al Zoor south power station boiler project and was planning to spend more than a year in Kuwait.

The 14-year-old daughter of Ahmed and Fawzia Nisar Memon from Pakistan who are on the fateful flight, was shocked at the news about the hijacking. She said she was listening with her sister to the news bulletins on the radio hoping to learn about

her parents' destiny.

The Pakistani embassy and the Khorafi Machioes Company where Nisar works were also in contact with the authorities and Nisar's childhood.

The Nisars were part of a group of seven, four Pakistanis and three Austrians, who left together for Bangkok a week ago on a business cum pleasure trip.

A spokesman for the Austrian embassy confirmed that three Austrians on board were on the flight KU 422. They are Josef and Sonja Degeorgi and Heinz Orthner.

"We just hope that the incident ends up without a bloodshed," the spokesman said.

Awaiting

The Thai Ambassador to Kuwait, Vichien Chatsuwann, was last night awaiting a report from Bangkok.

There are eight Thai nationals on the hijacked flight but the diplomat said he did not know them and suggested they might be workers on one of the construction projects in Kuwait.

The Syrian embassy had no information on the three of their nationals, among them one woman, who are also among the hostages.

INSIDE

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3,4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Features	7,8
Business	9,12
Stocks	10,11
Pictures	13
Classifieds	14
Urdu	15,16
Sports	17,18

آج کے اردو صفحات

- کویت اربور کا طیارہ اغواء کر لیا گیا
- چار پاکستانی بھی مسافروں میں شامل ہیں
- مصر پر ایرانی توپوں کی گولہ باری
- قذافیوں اور یسودیوں میں شدید جھڑپ
- دبئی انٹیر کے خلاف پاکستان نے اپنی پوزیشن مستحکم کر لی
- ادبیات ○ یوسفیات

WEATHER

PARTLY cloudy weather continues with light variable to northeasterly wind.
State of sea: slight
High water: 2.00 am, 1.00 pm
Low water: 9.00 am, 9.00 pm
Sunrise: 5.32 am
Sunset: 6.10 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 27°C 81°F
Ahmad: 24°C 75°F
Fahla: 25°C 77°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 16°C 61°F
Ahmad: 19°C 66°F
Fahla: 20°C 68°F
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 42 per cent
Ahmad: 60 per cent
Fahla: 65 per cent
Minimum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 27°C 81°F
Ahmad: 24°C 75°F
Fahla: 25°C 77°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 39 per cent
Ahmad: 60 per cent
Fahla: 62 per cent

INTERNATIONAL

Bases talks open in Manila

US warns of Soviet threat

MANILA, April 5, (Reuters): Talks on the future of American bases in the Philippines opened today with US warnings that the Soviet Union could turn overnight into a powerful military threat to Asian nations.

"It only requires an overnight shift in Soviet intentions; given their capability, to transform (their Pacific) presence into a serious economic and military threat," US Ambassador Nicholas Platt said.

The US and Philippine panels met amid a flurry of accusations over Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the weekend escape of renegade Colonel Gregorio Honasan, the country's most wanted Army rebel.

The American Embassy called the accusations baseless and Platt, opening the talks, reiterated support for President Corason Aquino.

Terms

But Philippine congressional leaders said they would investigate what Deputy Speaker Antonio Cuenco called an American "arm-twisting tactic" linked to the base negotiations.

The formal agenda for the talks, which could last months,

deals with the terms for the last two years of an agreement allowing Americans use of Clark Air Force base and Subic Naval bases.

Casting a giant shadow is the question of whether the Philippines will permit the bases to remain when the accord runs out in 1991.

Platt, the chief US negotiator, pushed for the retention of the bases, bluntly telling Manila's negotiators that Filipinos need them for their own security and for the money they bring into the country.

He said bow both sides handled the issue would have "considerable impact on the future of both our countries."

Platt called the US-Philippine military alliance "a lynch-pin of regional peace."

Manglapus, who has said the bases are for Washington's benefit, not Manila's, said he hoped the talks would end in "ultimate understanding" between the two countries.

Manila newspapers today exhorted officials to push a strong national interest line and leftist groups called for a major demonstration in newspaper

advertisements headlined "our sovereignty is not for sale."

President Reagan has said the two bases are increasingly important to regional security and their continued presence has been backed, generally privately, by other independent countries in South-East Asia and by Japan.

The Philippines took a self-confident tack despite the political embarrassment of Honasan's Saturday night escape from the prison ship where he was awaiting court martial over the bloody coup attempt he led last August.

Foreign secretary Raul Manglapus, who heads the Philippine negotiating team, has promised to hold out for more compensation and Philippine control over the two bases, which he has said benefit Washington more than Manila.

Danger

President Corason Aquino's aides dismissed the charismatic Honasan as a "rebel without a cause" but share prices slid on Monday reflecting investors' nervousness as the military acknowledged it has few clues to help its countrywide search.

Justice Secretary Sedfery

Ordenez called Honasan, who claims a large following amongst junior officers, "a clear and present danger to our government."

Opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile challenged Aquino to call a snap election. In a radio interview today the former Defence Minister denied aiding Honasan, a close friend who once headed Enrile's personal security.

The government has banned radio stations from playing taped, telephoned interviews with the coup leader, fearing repetition of a propaganda campaign he waged during months on the run last year.

The Daily Globe newspaper, which is linked to the opposition, today ran what it said was an interview with Honasan in which he denied bribing his guards to help him escape. The 14 members of the elite Navy special warfare unit who disappeared with him helped him escape out of conviction, not for money, he said.

Manglapus says the annual \$180 million pledge from Washington for the bases covering the five-year period to the end of 1989 is not enough.



● The family of Martin Luther King Jr., stands silent in a moment of prayer next to the crypt where King is buried, during a wreath-laying ceremony in Atlanta. (Reuters wirephoto)

Labour unions demand wage increase

Strike paralyses Lebanon

BEIRUT, April 5, (AP): Lebanon was paralysed today as Muslims and Christians united in a nation-wide strike called by labour unions demanding a 300 percent wage increase.

Banks, schools, shops, restaurants, petrol stations, government offices and other businesses were closed in Beirut's Christian and Muslim sectors and other major cities.

The General Confederation of Labor Unions, which sponsored the one-day strike, said Beirut airport, the nation's only civil aviation gateway, as well as hospitals, pharmacies, bakeries, and the media were exempt.

Compromise

The 300,000-strong GCLU described the one-day protest as a "warning strike." It set April 15 as a deadline for an indefinite work stoppage, if its demand for a 300 percent salary increase was not met.

Parliament on Friday authorised acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who also holds the labour

and social affairs portfolio, and Finance Minister Joseph Hasbani to deal with the unions' demand for salary increases in the private and public sectors.

A government source said Hoss and Hasbani are considering a 100 percent "compromise" wage increase.

"The government cannot give the GCLU a 300 percent increase in salaries. Both businessmen and the state treasury cannot cope with such an increase," the source said.

"Both government leaders and businessmen fear that such a high raise as the one demanded by the GCLU would sharply increase the inflation rate," the source added.

Lebanon's 13-year-old civil war has pushed the nation's inflation rate from 9 percent in 1975 to the current estimated level of 225 percent.

The government source said: "Any increase in salaries would force the Lebanese pound to decline further against foreign currencies, something that will

also raise prices and create additional difficulties for the working class."

The Lebanese pound, once the soundest currency in the Middle East, rated 2.5 to the US dollar before the civil war. It sank to a record low of 700 to the dollar last December.

The decline of the Lebanese pound against foreign currencies has sent prices skyrocketing in a nation that imports more than 85 percent of its needs.

The pound regained some of its value in the first quarter of 1983, rating 360 to the dollar in the Beirut money market last week.

"The federation called the strike and here we are, striking against ourselves," said a taxi driver.

The manager of a local trading company said he thought the strike was a futile exercise.

"The real problem is the war, which is the real reason for the economic problems," he said.

Libya pulls out troops from its border with Tunisia

ROME, April 5, (AP): Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khaddafi said he has ordered the dismantling of a military unit formed to act inside Tunisia if the United States used that country to attack Libya, the official Libyan news agency Jana said.

Jana, monitored in Rome, said Khaddafi also told the visiting Tunisian Prime Minister and his cabinet that he ordered a division of troops withdrawn from the border with Tunisia.

Libya sent the troops to the border because, he claimed, before the new Tunisian government took power Nov 7, the United States intended to use Tunisia to attack Libya, Jana said.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hadi Baccouche and his country's council of ministers came to Libya to attend a discussion of unity with members of Libya's cabinet.

Khaddafi said he also will insist on "opening the artificial borders with Egypt" and withdrawing military forces from there as part of his desire for a unified Arab nation.

"To bolster confidence, fraternity, security and safety among the brothers in Libya and Tunisia, I announce the dismantling of the 'Badr' formation, which was to act inside Tunisian Arab territories if America used it against Libya," Jana quoted Khaddafi as telling the meeting.

Gift

"We also announce the presenting of the weapons of this formation as a gift to the Tunisian Arab armed forces," Khaddafi added.

"Those who made Nov 7 were among those who prevented America from using Tunisian Arab territories against Libya,"

said Khaddafi. He was referring to the removal of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, who had made his country one of the most Westernised nations in the Arab world.

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the Prime Minister and an Army general, claimed the 84-year-old Bourguiba was incapacitated by age and health and took power under a constitutional provision that allows such an act if the President dies or is declared incapacitated.

Khaddafi also told the meeting he had announced the abolition of the border gate with Tunisia. Starting today, said Khaddafi, "Arabs in both Libya and Tunisia can enter and go out without this gate standing in their way."

The Libyan leader expressed regret that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "had rejected the opening of the borders."

Punjab neighbours seal their borders

NEW DELHI, April 5, (AP): Two Indian states neighbouring the state of Punjab took fresh security measures today against Sikh terrorism, banning night traffic and sealing their borders.

Meanwhile, five people were gunned down by militants in Punjab, reports said.

The government of Kashmir banned vehicle traffic after sundown in its border areas to prevent infiltration by Sikh militants operating from Punjab, the United News of India news agency reported.

The Himachal Pradesh government sealed its borders with Punjab and beefed up police patrols in the sensitive areas, UNI said. The measures were designed to block the terrorists' escape routes, UNI reported.

Police reports said six Sikhs have been gunned down in Punjab in the past 24 hours; they included a Sikh temple official, identified as Makhan Singh, in Dbarwal village in Gurdaspur district, and five others in different areas.

The latest murders raised Punjab's death toll to at least 661 in attacks blamed on Sikh extremists so far this year.

More than 1,000 people were killed last year by Sikh militants fighting for a separate theocratic homeland in Punjab.

Amritsar police arrested nine Sikh extremists of the outlawed Khalistan Liberation Force and the Khalistan Commando Force, two underground terrorist organisations.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held in Punjab today by various factions of the militant groups to discuss the idea of unity, UNI reported. The meeting was held at Damdami Taksal, headquarters of a fundamentalist Sikh religious school.

Tamils kill 4 soldiers in ambush

COLOMBO, April 5, (Reuters): Tamil rebels killed four Sri Lankan soldiers in an ambush today and injured two others, military officials said.

Officials said the six soldiers were on their way by car to distribute bread to a camp when guerrillas shot them at Kondachchi in Mannar district, 200 km north of Colombo.

The weapons of the dead were missing after the incident, they said.

The ambushers were from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which is fighting for an independent state for minority Tamils, the military said.

The Tigers were suspected of having killed eight members of a rival Tamil group on Sunday at Vavuniya, military officials said. No other details were available.

Police said a van carrying newspapers was burned today by armed men suspected to be from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, a banned leftist group drawn from the majority Sinhalese community.

US proposes \$2b of arms for Israel

WASHINGTON, April 5, (Reuters): The Reagan administration has told Congress it intended to sell Israel 75 advanced F-16 C/D fighter planes for \$2 billion as a way to bolster Israeli security.

The new Defence Department proposal, if approved by Congress as expected, is part of a November 1987 US-Israeli security agreement calling for fresh American military aid, which runs in excess of \$1.8 billion annually.

Opposition

The jets are to be made by General Dynamics Corp., the primary F-16 contractor, with Israeli co-production, although details of the production plan were not disclosed.

The new F-16s are to take the place of the Lavi, a fighter Israel had started to build but dropped last year because of excessive costs, the officials said. It was already soaking up a major portion of US military aid to Israel.

There was opposition to the Lavi plan both in the United States and in Israel, as well as opposition from American plane manufacturers who feared the Lavi would be bought by third countries in place of US-built planes.

The Pentagon also informed Congress on Monday of other major arms sales to the Middle East.

They included sales to Egypt of 7,511 anti-tank missiles, with 108 launchers, for \$180 million and two Blackhawk helicopters for \$32 million.

The Pentagon also told Congress it planned to sell to the United Arab Emirates modification kits for five Hawk air defence missile batteries for \$168 million.

It said it plans to sell planes and missiles to Pakistan worth \$343 million, which includes 11 F-16 fighters for \$256 million and 200 Sparrow and 360 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles for a total of \$87 million.

Carbide ordered to pay \$192m

JABALPUR, April 5, (AP): A judge ordered Union Carbide Corp. to pay \$192 million in interim relief for victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, saying he had considered "the needs of the victims."

The US-based multinational said it would study the decision before deciding whether to file an appeal.

The ruling came on Carbide's appeal of a lower court's decision ordering an interim relief payment of \$270 million. Carbide had argued that a grant of interim relief could prejudice the outcome of the Indian government's \$3-billion suit against the company.

The ruling by the Madhya Pradesh court lessened the interim award by \$78 million and ordered Carbide to deposit the sum within two months.

High court judge S.K. Seth said he made the reduction after considering "the needs of the victims."

At Union Carbide's headquarters in the United States, company spokesman Robert Berzok said the company would review the ruling before deciding whether to appeal to India's Supreme Court.

"The ruling of the judge... will not serve the real needs of the Bhopal victims," Berzok said. "The high court judge is holding Union Carbide liable, and this can only result in additional litigation while the genuine victims remain in the wings."

France strikes hostage deal

DAMASCUS, April 5, (AP): A deal has been struck between France and Iran to resume diplomatic relations and release three Frenchmen held by Iranian group in Lebanon; released, knowledgeable said here today.

If there are no last-minute snags, the release could occur in the next few days," one said.

The two sources declined to identify but have proved to be reliable in the past. They said a special French government delegation was negotiating with Lebanese hostage takers in their hold in Lebanon's Bekaa valley.

They said the envoy, French Interior Minister Pasqua, and an unidentified Lebanese businessman, who met Damascus yesterday at a checkpoint on the Syrian border controlled by Syrian Army.

The sources said not involved in previous negotiations which led to the release of 11 Syrian soldiers in Nov 27 last year of two hostages.

The three French held in Lebanon are Jean Kaufman, 42, a journalist; May 22, 1983 and two diplomats, Marcel Carlier, 63, and Fontaine, 46, seized May 1983.

Their kidnapping was by Islamic Jihad, a group of Muslims of the Shiite sect. Iran's leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

The French Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the deal but said it had reached an accord to resume diplomatic relations in exchange for the simultaneous release of the three hostages.

Soviets in favour of embargo on Iran

ABU DHABI, April 5, (AP): Soviet officials said Moscow was not against an arms embargo on Iran but did not believe Tehran would end the Gulf oil embargo.

"We are not against an embargo," Georgy Tarasov, vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, said last night.

"But we believe it will not be because Iran will not get weapons from the market and even the oil embargo will not be lifted."

Talks

Tarasov, the highest Soviet official to visit UAE since ties with Moscow were established in 1985, said he had met with senior government officials on the war.

He said Moscow was part in UN consultations on possible embargo, adding that he would work out something we do not want our ties with Iran to be severed."

The United States has pressing for an arms embargo on Iran to accept last United Nations' ceasefire but Western diplomats in Gulf have said Moscow has been blocking the move.

Tarasov left after arriving Muscat from Abu Dhabi, flying to Kuwait after a short visit to Oman.

Two die in clash with Israelis

BEIRUT, April 5, (UPI): Israeli patrol today clashed with Palestinian commandos at a checkpoint on the border between Lebanon and Israel, the Israeli army said.

An Israeli military spokesman said two commandos were killed and four Israeli soldiers wounded when the commandos attacked the checkpoint and fired at it.

The spokesman said the commandos had planned to infiltrate Lebanon by an Israeli patrol, about 10 yards from the border fence near the town of Kfar Yuval.

The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), a faction of the PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, claimed responsibility for the attack and said three commandos were wounded, one of them seriously, and three Israeli soldiers were killed in a firefight that lasted two hours.

The sign of good taste



Made in England

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

Player's Gold Leaf

No sign of progress in Shultz-Hussein talks

DAMASCUS, April 5, (Agencies): Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Damascus today after talks with Jordan's King Hussein showed no apparent progress in winning acceptance for the US Middle East peace plan.

Shultz went directly to the presidential palace in Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad expected to focus on the initiative.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the 75-minute meeting with Hussein in Amman was "useful."

He said there had been no formal reaction from Hussein to the new US initiative, launched last February in response to unprecedented Palestinian riots in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Changed

"No one has said no. Nothing's changed on that," Redman said. "This is something that is going to take time."

Shultz, shuttling between Middle East capitals to win support for the plan, has been seeking definite responses from regional leaders, most of whom consider it flawed.

The Americans have lowered their expectations for success and are now highlighting the fact that no one has rejected it outright.

Shultz met Israeli leaders yesterday but did not appear to persuade Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to drop his opposition. The proposals include an international conference to pave the way for direct Arab-Israeli

negotiations and the principle of trading land for peace.

Shultz was not expecting to make much progress with Assad who also opposes major elements of the US proposal.

"I do not want to predict that I will make any headway with President Assad," Shultz told reporters recently. "He's usually pretty firm."

Powers

Before Shultz's arrival, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said that the Syrian position had not changed.

The Syrians seek an international peace conference with full powers and the participation of the PLO, as well as Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Redman said Shultz, in his meeting with Hussein, reported on his talks with the Israelis. The King reviewed the US proposal and questioned Shultz about Israeli positions, he said.

The US spokesman said that during a working lunch, Shultz and Hussein discussed other issues including US-Soviet relations.

Before leaving for Damascus, Shultz told Jordanian newspaper editors some Israeli leaders were much more favourably inclined to the initiative than others.

"Of course some of it appeals to everybody, so it is a picture," Shultz said.

"I tried to explain this picture faithfully to King Hussein and I believe it is of great importance to maintain the momentum of this initiative and to increase

understanding of it."

He said he had not received a clear answer to his peace plan from Israel. "I got a variety of responses but I haven't got a 'no' and I haven't got a 'yes'."

Shultz did not mention Jordan's attitude to his proposals. He is due to return to Israel later tonight, meet Israeli leaders again tomorrow, visit Egyptian President Mubarak in Cairo, and return to Amman.

Mubarak said today the Arabs have the will to make Shultz's peace initiative a success but questioned the readiness for peace of Shamir.

Mubarak, in an apparent challenge to the Israeli Prime Minister, said the Arabs would be prepared to take the blame if Shamir accepted the US peace proposals and the Palestinians persisted in rejecting them.

Fired

Meanwhile Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets and live ammunition to break up demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, wounding at least four people, Palestinian sources said.

"In the West Bank village of Yamun, the Army destroyed three houses belonging to four people suspected of participating in a demonstration," the Army spokesman said.

In the West Bank village of Bani Na'im, two residents were wounded by bullets during a protest that erupted after the funeral of a man shot and killed yesterday by Israeli soldiers, Palestinian sources said.

[illegible]

EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

MUSIC

Upasana
Upasana presents a musical
nite — Ghanamanjari, featur-
ing South Indian film songs, on
April 7, 7.30 pm.

Geethanjali — a selection of
Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam
songs — will be presented by
the same group, 6.30 pm, on
April 8.

Both programmes will be
held at the Indian Arts Circle
auditorium, Punaites. For
reservations, phone 5643643;
3987409.

Sargam Kay Sitaray
Sargam Kay Sitaray, a
musical nite, will be held on
April 7 at the Cinema Granada
Tel. 5723573; 5759283.

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
Sudanese artist Hasan
Hakem is showing drawings
and sketches at the gallery in
Salhiya Complex. It is open
daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm
and 4 to 6.30 pm, until April 21.

Dahiyat Abdullah
Al Salem Gallery
Kuwait's formative artists
are showing their paintings at
the 20th annual exhibition at
the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem
Gallery, near Fatima Mosque.
The exhibition is open daily,
except Friday, from 8 am to 12
noon and 4 to 7 pm, until April 7.

Free Atelier
An exhibition of paintings by
Samia Ahmad Sayed Omar is
open daily from 8 am to 12
noon and 4 to 7 pm at the Free
Atelier Gallery, Arabian Gulf
St., near Amiri Hospital. It runs
until April 7.

Sultan Gallery
An exhibition of oil paint-
ings by Pakistani artist Yas-
meen Bhamia is open daily,
except Friday, from 9 am to 1
pm and 5 to 8 pm at the gallery,
Al Soor St., until April 14.

Kuwait National Museum
Thirty six Palestinian artists
are exhibiting their work at the
Kuwait National Museum,
Arabian Gulf St., open from 8
am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm,
until April 7.

THEATRE

**Kuwait School of
Contemporary Dance**
The company will present
two ballets "Carnival" and
"The Never Ending Story"
from April 25 to 29, 8.30 pm
nightly, at the "Mousetrap"
Theatre, NES, Jaberiya, Tickets
— KD 4. From Saturday, April
9, the box office at Mousetrap
will be open daily from 4 to 7
pm. For telephone bookings
ring 5610673; 8 am to 1 pm.

HOTELS

Handicraft bazaar
An exhibition of arts and
handicrafts will be held on
Thursday and Friday, April 7
and 8 at Regency Palace Hotel.
The exhibition include hand-
made jewellery, painting and
engraving on glass and metals,
Islamic & Kuwaiti traditional
paintings and writings, samples
of old Kuwaiti houses and
paintings, children's paintings,
coins and jewellery from the
16th century. The exhibition
will remain open from 8.00 am
to 9.00 pm on both the days.

SOCIAL

**Health & Beauty
Gala Morning**
Reminder: health and beauty
gala morning will be held on
Sunday, April 10, 10 am to 1
pm. For further details contact
Gail Nugent - 5636675.

Ladies Tee Party
International Ladies Tea
Party is on Wednesday April 6,
from 5 pm at the Kuwait Plaza
Hotel. Highlight of the evening
will be a children's fashion
show, sponsored by leading
stores in Kuwait. Tel. 5386297;
5317390.

Kuwait Welsh Society
The Society will hold a
"Nosen Laven" (social even-
ing), 8 pm, April 7. For details
phone 3912384; 4874548.

Filipino Cultural Show
Auditions for singers, dan-
cers and props-men will be held
on April 8, 4 pm, at the Philip-
pines Embassy premises, for a
cultural show and food festival
due to be held in June. The
show will be organised by
Kuwait-Philippines Economic
Council in coordination with
the Philippine Embassy, Flasi-
sik and Kapilku. For details
contact Gil Herico — 2522034;
2521754.

Alumni get-together
The T.K.M. College of
Engineering will hold a get-
together on April 21 at the SAS
Hotel. Those who have not reg-
istered please contact 2402945;
4336416 after 7 pm.

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.10 am
Zuhr	11.50
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.10
Isha	7.28

VIDEO CORNER

Spielberg's recipe to beat the blues

By Shaun Seekins

BATTERIES Not Included is a
very silly film, maybe that's
why I enjoyed it so much. A film
to take you away from the cares
of the moment and remind you
of the true values of life. Present-
ed by Steven Spielberg and
directed by Matthew Robbins,
it brings together the husband
and wife team: Hume Cronyn
and Jessica Tandy. They were
tempted to drop plans for a
stage play and do the film. As
Cronyn says "This is not the
best of all possible worlds, but
miracles come into it occasion-
ally and we need to be reminded
of that and I think it's wonder-
ful to be in another feel-good
picture to follow Cocoon."

The story is about a group of
apartment owners in an old
brownstone building who are
being menaced by developers
who want to demolish and
rebuild. The police don't want
to know and it rather looks as if
Franc and Faye (Cronyn and
Tandy) are going to end up in
an old people's home. Then,
help arrives from a very unex-
pected source, from a galaxy far
away on the other side of the
universe, in the shape of tiny
living spaceships. It seems that
when the thugs employed by
the developers smash some-
thing up, the tiny ET's can
mend just as fast, consternation
all around! Soon they start to
reproduce and it looks as if all
will be well, but, of course,
nothing is as smooth as that.



Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn in Spielberg's film.

Super special effects and
brilliant photography make
this a must for the kids.

Cry Freedom is Richard
Attenborough's impressive
new film recounting the un-
shamedly political story of
Steve Biko (Denzel Washing-
ton), who was to die in police
custody, and the crusading
white newspaper editor, Don-
ald Woods (Kevin Kline), who
struck up a dangerous friend-
ship with the articulate black
activist.

The first half of the film is
taken up with Wood's re-
education under Biko's gentle
tutelage. He learns at first hand
some of the problems of blacks
in the Republic. The second
half, following Biko's untimely
death (officially designated
hunger strike), traces Wood's
painful decision to quit the
country and his subsequent
escape with his family in pos-
session of an explosive manu-
script detailing Biko's death.
Given the subject, which may



Mini-spaceships arrive at the home of Faye Riley (Jessica Tandy) in Batteries Not Included.

not appeal to audience search-
ing escapism, the film is doing
quite well on the circuits.

In **Good Morning Vietnam**
director Barry Levinson
(Diner) underlines how so
many little incidents make up a
war, how one man's crusade for
the ideals he considers right has
little chance of success against
military censorship. He casts
Robin Williams as a brash
radio DJ transferred to strife-
torn Saigon as part of a morale-
building effort sponsored by an
eccentric general (Noble
Willoughby). As the new morn-
ing man, Williams proceeds to
shake up Armed Forces Radio
with rapid-fire wit and bard-
driving rock.

This doesn't go down too
well with the entrenched sta-
tion manager (Bruno Kirby), a
Mantovani man who likes his
humour simple and his music
sedate. But it's the new disc
jockey's opposition to the

military's censorship of the
news that brings him into
serious conflict with his
superiors. After barely escap-
ing a Vietcong attempt to bomb
his station manager to mention
the incident on air. When he
rebels at these arbitrary restraints
his superiors pull the plug. A semi-
documentary style of presenta-
tion and a script that wanders
off-line sometimes makes this a
doubtful for a long theatrical
run, but, nevertheless, an enter-
taining film worth watching.

Huise of Games is a high-
class psychological thriller. Dr
Margaret Ford (Lindsay
Crouse) is a successful psy-
chiatrist and author of a best-
seller about obsession. Driven.
She's so icily cool and con-
trolled, you just know that here
is a career woman as repressed,
yet potentially volatile, as some
of her trickiest patients. A

highly confrontational session
with one, a compulsive gam-
bler, sets off the fuse. He owes
\$25,000, begins to wave a gun
about, so to quieten him, she
agrees to help sort out the debt.

This leads to a meeting with
Mike (Joe Mantegna) at the
low-rent gaming parlour of the
title. Mike is a shady conman
who, at Ford's insistence,
begins to unveil for her the full
range of his shadow games. His
maxim is: "Don't Trust
Nobody", but now the doctor
is driven and her obsession with
Mike's world must inevitably
lead into more and more deceit.
Very good performances from
the main actors and a strong
story make this a film well
worth watching.

Date with an Angel is a good
new comedy starring Phoebe
Gates and Michael E. Knight.
Whoopi Goldberg's excellent
new film **Fatal Beauty** has
arrived and is available now.

Sports fans can watch the
very entertaining Pro-Celebrity
Golf from Scotland and Bask-
etball, Bulls vs Celtics and Nugs
vs Blazers.

Deep Space 26 and Zombie
High are new horror films and
there is a very interesting semi-
documentary **Hail Hail Rock**
and **Roll** featuring Eric Clap-
ton, Chuck Berry and many
others.

The above films are by courtesy
of VFL, Safeway, Farmania;
Video Nani, Salbiya (Tel:
2432809) and Video Club, Sal-
miya (Tel: 5724372).

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.30 Tan Tan: cartoons
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 World News via Satellite
- 4.25 Wa Ma'atasmah: Arabic serial, featuring Siba Salem, Sami Qafan, Hina Moham-mad
- 5.15 Bain Al Ams Wa Al Youm: Between Yesterday and Today. Fatima Al Toq hosts the show
- 6.10 Songs
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 With Students
- 7.45 Folklore: local show
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Layali Hilmia: Arabic serial, starring Yabya Fakhrani, Safiya Al Omari, Hassan Yusuf, Huda Sultan
- 10.50 Music Studio: a variety show featuring Ali Abdul Sattar, Yemeni singer Luwal Hussein, Rasheed Al Hilmia, Mustafa Abmad, Sulaiman Al Mulla, Faisal Al Zankawi.
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 World News via Satellite
- 12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown

Gummi Bears: car-

toons
6.30 The Micro at Work: this episode examines the use of computers in the printing and automobile industries.
7.00 Fairy Tale Theatre: "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." The fable of a little girl who is lost in the woods and takes shelter in the home of bears...

7.30 Growing Pains: "Jason's Rib" The husband and wife differ over the basics of bringing up children.
8.00 News in English: 8.40 J.J. Starbuck: "Gold-buck's car breaks down near a village, where she spends the night."

9.30 Wildlife on One: "The Case of the Vanishing Squirrel." A British researcher studies a species of red squirrels.

10.00 Sledge Hammer: "State of Sledge."

10.30 Falcon Crest: the Channings and the Giobertis are cut off from the village due to a storm. And a murder takes place.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Adventures of

Please note that pro-
grammes and timings are
liable to change without
notice.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Closed
Al Salmiya
Doing Time
Starring: Day Young
Al Hamra
One Crazy Summer
Drive-In
Li'hinaat
(Arabic)
Starring: Ahmad Bader,
Bosl, Rham Shahin
Al Firdous
Kudrat Ka Kanoon (Hindi)
Starring: Jackie Shroff,
Hema Malini, Radhika
Fakhraani, Open Air
Pyar Ki Jett (Hindi)

Al Fahaheel
Zaman Hatem Zahran
(Arabic)
Al Jahra
Let's Get Harry
Granada
Al Mal'ouh (Arabic)
Salaikhat
Oridathu (Malayalam)
Al Jleeb
The Living Daylights
Starring: Timothy Dalton
Almadi Drive-In
AF Rafil Yahub Mairatatin
(Arabic)

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Awqaf Bldg., Hilali St.
Al Hafez Pharmacy
Souk Wafel, Salah Al Din
St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Shamsan Pharmacy
Bin Khaldoon St.
Salmiya and Rumaithiya
Al Shifa Pharmacy

**Hmoud Al Anjari Com-
plex, Salem Al Mubarak St.**
Fahaheel and Almadi
Al Itihad Pharmacy
Makkah St.
Khatat
Al Hayat Pharmacy
Main St.
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah
Bldg., Matafi St.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES
Thought for today

It takes all sorts of people to make a world — Douglas Jerrold, English playwright-humourist (1803-1857).

OPINION
Israel living in true fear

YASSER Arafat has been the true symbol of the Palestinian cause for the past 20 years. With his characteristic scarf, he has become Palestine itself.

Many Palestinians have appeared and disappeared because they exploited the Palestinian cause for their own personal gain.

No one has any doubt about Arafat's patriotism. He can count on this and thereby embarrass Israel by demanding direct negotiations, sitting with its leaders under the supervision of a neutral party.

Since no one has any doubt about Arafat's true nationalistic feelings the negotiations can be direct. After all, Israel has been telling the world that it would give the Arabs anything they want as long as there are direct negotiations.

There is no difference if Arafat speaks through Russia and Israel speaks through the US since they will sit at the same table exchanging smiles and laughs.

Nothing will destroy Israel more than peace. This is well understood by the Israeli leaders, especially the older ones who think that by insisting on direct negotiations they will avoid peace or delay the process.

During the Israeli Prime Minister's visit to some of the areas of the West Bank on Saturday, Shamir arrogantly stated that Arabs will gain nothing from Israel through violence and that if they want something they would have to sit at the negotiation table — the same table that Israel has rejected for 40 years. It has refused negotiations while all the time speaking of peace to the world, trying to show the world that it is a peace-loving country.

What would happen if the Palestinian leader publicly tells Shamir to sit at the negotiation table while the uprising continues?

In his recent international televised interview, Arafat said he recognises the international legality of Israel, which means that he acknowledges the world recognition of Israel. Although these are not the true feelings of Arafat, they reflect the attitude of the world in which he is living.

We should always remember that by restricting Israel within certain borders we have the beginning of the end of Israel; in spite of the arrogance of Shamir and Sharon.

The nature of the State of Israel is such that it cannot survive in this region. All signs indicate that Israel will vanish one day — it could happen tomorrow, it could happen after a hundred years.

Yasser Arafat will greatly embarrass Israel if he declares that he is ready for direct negotiations. This declaration would signal the beginning of the end for this artificial state.

It is important that the uprising continue because Israel is today living in true fear.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

A new Gulf war flash-point

By John Owen-Davies

There is little sign of activity on the Iraqi side, apart from the bustling Al Halli border post. Ominous grass mounds, some with sandbagged emplacements, line sections of the river.

The shanty town of Habur, thriving on the traffic spawned by the 7-1/2-year Gulf war, is about 240 km (140 miles) west of the nearest point on the Iranian border and 1,120 km (700 miles) from Ankara, Turkey's capital.

Export

Garages, tyre-repair shops, fast food restaurants and basic hotels line the route through the town, two km (1.2 miles) north of the crossing point.

Most vehicles from Iraq are laden with oil, destined for export outlets on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, from the Iraqi oil centre of Kirkuk, 320 km (200 miles) southeast of Habur.

Iraq, whose main Gulf outlets were blocked early in the war, exports up to 1.5 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) through two pipelines to Iskenderun bay and about 70,000 bpd by road.

Pro-Iranian Kurdish guerrillas in Iraq have attacked convoys, some of them taking basic goods from Europe to Baghdad.

The 580-km (360-mile) road from Habur to Iskenderun, hugging Turkey's border with Syria for much of the way, is a driver's nightmare with dense and lumbering traffic.

It is similar to the road through Jordan from Aqaba port, Iraq's other main transit point for goods.

Ambush

The favoured spot for drivers is a modern restaurant and motel, complete with mosque and sauna, at Nusaybin.

Here they swap stories and warn colleagues coming from other directions about particular hazards of the day — from speed traps to the possibilities of guerrilla ambush.

On the other side of the Tigris plain stretches into Syria, about 40 km (25 miles) away.

Tall observation posts manned by para-military gendarmerie troops line the muddy Turkish bank of the Hezli which flows into the Tigris.

One such post and a nearby Kurdish mud and brick village came within a split second of destruction in the Iranian raid.

HABUR, Turkey. (Reuters): Flanked by majestic snow-capped peaks and fertile lowlands fed by the Tigris River, this remote frontier crossing between Turkey and Iraq appears a picture of calm and serenity.

It is not.

Five craters gouged by Iranian bombs in a Turkish field 800 metres (yards) from two concrete bridges spanning the Hezli River show it is yet another flash-point in the Iran-Iraq war.

The bombs were dumped by a jet that flew into a hail of flak from camouflaged Iraqi anti-aircraft guns on the opposite bank. Turkey has threatened similar action if any other Iranian jet violates its airspace.

Iran aimed to destroy the bridges, main transit point for trade between Turkey and Iraq, worth \$2.1 billion last year, and for European traffic bound for Baghdad.

"We were lucky," said the driver of one oil tanker lorry who had been waiting to enter Iraq when the jet struck on March 24. "A few hundred metres closer and we would all have been dead."

Trucks

Up to 5,000 trucks cross the border each day on the single direction bridges. About 300 are lined up on either side at any one time waiting to pass customs.

To the left are the peaks of northern Iraq and the fast-flowing Hezli River marking the border, over which the Iranian pilot started his daring low-level bombing run.

Millions of dollars raised to support uprising

By Warren Richey

BAHRAIN: Palestinians and other Arabs in the Gulf region have raised millions of dollars in humanitarian aid to ensure that the ongoing uprising in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank is not snuffed out.

The fund-raising efforts — including donations by Gulf leaders, dinners, poetry readings, rallies, and neighbourhood collection boxes — have given new momentum to Palestine Liberation Organisation offices in the region. And they have helped revive hope of a Palestinian homeland among the hundreds of thousands of expatriate Palestinians living and working in the Gulf.

The PLO, which maintains diplomatic missions in each of the Gulf states, has responded to the public outrage over Israeli actions by establishing special funds to support the uprising. Officials stress that rather than

bullets and bombs, all aid for the uprising is earmarked to help families cope with the continuing Israeli occupation.

"By medicine and food, not by arms," says Rafiq Al Natsha, director of the PLO office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. "We are looking for peace. We are seeking the minimum rights of our people," he adds. "But until now we have only received an answer from the Israeli Army by their machine guns, tanks, gas bombs, and helicopters."

"This is not just a slaughter against Palestinian civilians," he says "but it is a big massacre against peace."

Overall there are an estimated 576,000 Palestinians living in the Gulf region. Kuwait has the largest population of Palestinians

Hope of Palestinian homeland revived

with roughly 350,000. Saudi Arabia has 170,000 and there are about 35,000 Palestinians in the United Arab Emirates.

In addition to appeals for donations, PLO officials are asking Palestinians and other Arabs to "adopt" a family in the occupied territories to help create a basic support network for the most needy of the 1.5 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Many of those families already rely on remittances sent home by relatives working temporarily in the Gulf. But PLO and other Arab officials are concerned that Israel is making it increasingly difficult for such financial assistance to enter the troubled areas and reach the Palestinian families that need it.

And just how the money raised in the Gulf will enter the territories isn't clear.

"We think the Israelis are deliberately following a policy of forcing Palestinians out," says Lakhdar Ibrahim, assistant secretary-general of the Tunis-based Arab League. "It is really remarkable that all these numbers have stayed in their country."

"What is happening now in the territories is giving a new lease on life and a new fresh start for the struggle of the Palestinian people," he says.

Donations

Ibrahim, on a tour of Gulf states to assess grassroots and other efforts to aid the Palestinians, says current donations have surged, triggered primarily by graphic television news coverage of Israeli acts of brutality against stone-throwing Palestinian youths.

In Kuwait, about \$9 million has been raised from private sources during the past two months, according to Saleem Zanoon, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council. He adds that \$2 million each has been raised in both Qatar and Bahrain.

Other PLO officials in the region say that \$3.7 million has been raised in Saudi Arabia, and more than \$1 million has been collected from private sources in the United Arab Emirates.

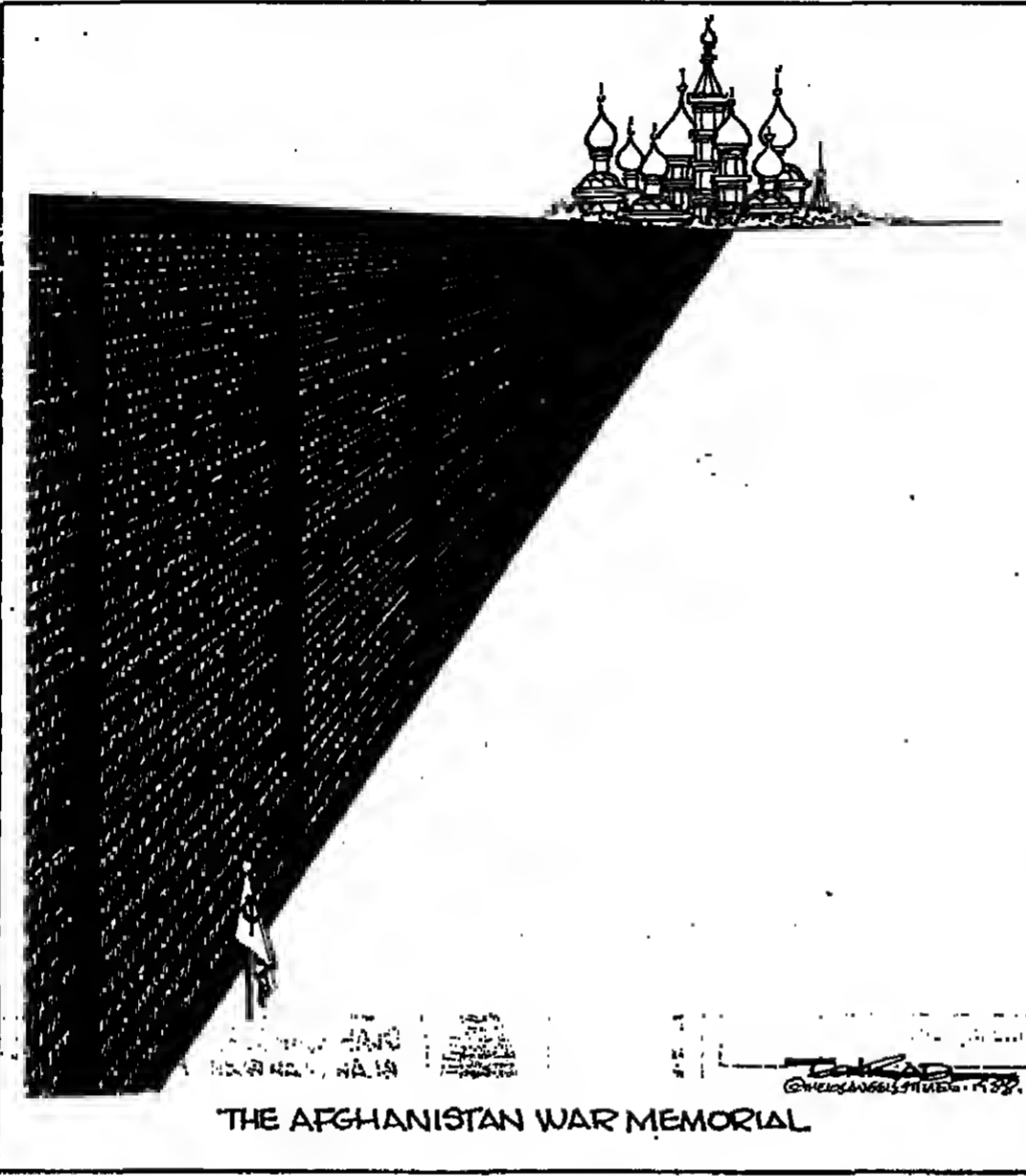
While such grassroots contributions have been significant, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has complained that contributions by Arab governments in support of the uprising have been less than expected. The complaints were aimed at states that have balked at making contribu-

tions above their regular payments to the PLO called for under the 1978 Baghdad summit agreement.

The issue is a sensitive one; as the 1978 agreement is set to expire this year. In addition, unlike previous fund-raising efforts by the PLO, the current call for aid comes at a time of depressed oil prices. Most Gulf states are considering borrowing to cover this year's expected budget deficits.

In the meantime, both Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and UAE President Sheikh Zayed are said to have made significant personal donations. And Kuwait and Iraq are reported to have made multi-million dollar contributions through the United Nations.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



Question remains whether Washington will stand by its friends

Tests of US fidelity

By John Hughes

WASHINGTON: The United States is heading into a couple of important tests of its fidelity.

The question is whether Washington will stand by its friends in Afghanistan and Nicaragua — both groups battling Marxist regimes — or whether political considerations will cause their abandonment.

In the past, circumstances have conspired against some freedom-inspired fighters who threw in their lot with the US, but who were jettisoned in time of crisis.

After the ill-conceived Bay of Pigs venture, Cubans who had fancifully sought to free Cuba from Fidel Castro were left to fend for themselves on a beachhead overrun by Dr Castro's superior forces. And in Vietnam, when an exhausted America withdrew, thousands of Vietnamese who had enlisted in the fight against the communist North were left to the far-from-tender hands of the Marxist victors. Boatloads of Vietnamese refugees still flee from Hanoi's rule over their country.

Now it is the turn of the Afghans, who have resisted occupation of their country by the Soviet Army, and of the Nicaraguans who have taken up arms to break the grip on their country of the Marxist-enamoured Sandinistas.

In Afghanistan, the beleaguered Soviets are about at the end of their military tether, having been held to a standoff by the anti-communist guerrillas. A few hitches are stalling their promised military withdrawal. One is President Reagan's insistence that they stop military aid to the Afghan forces they will leave in place before the US stops its aid to the freedom fighters. This should be a staunch US position. To do otherwise would be unconscionable.

What the Soviets are trying to do is shape the future of Afghanistan — to win politically what they have failed to win militarily. Of concern to Moscow is any perception of "weakness" in Afghanistan. That, the Soviet leadership fears, might encourage ethnic separatists in the Soviet Union, or beaten Eastern European countries, to follow courses more independent of Moscow.

But the US has no obligation to bail out the USSR in Afghanistan. The American obligation is to the guerrillas who have fought so bravely, and to the 5 million Afghan refugees who have been displaced from their country. They should not be left to the retribution of a Soviet puppet regime in Kabul, with a continuing supply of military aid from Moscow.

The Afghan guerrillas are tough, cantankerous and not necessarily democratic meddles. But they deserve better than to be left without bullets to face the guns of Afghanistan's Soviet puppets.

Unless the US role in Nicaragua is to end in infamy, the same must be said of the Nicaraguan Contras. Just days before the rescheduled resumption of cease-fire talks with the ruling Sandinistas, they faced a new Sandino military offensive. They faced it without the support of the on-again, off-again US Congress, which has alternately voted aid and then cut it off, depending on its whim. Currently the aid is turned off, and despite Ronald Reagan's urging, Democratic leaders are not inclined to vote on a new package.

Like the Afghan freedom fighters, the Contras are quarrelsome at times among themselves, and have been guilty of excesses and human rights abuses — just like the Sandinistas. The Sandinistas have resurfaced their "tur-bas" — gangs of rock-throwing thugs used to break up opposition political meetings. The "tur-bas" were curbed in 1984, but have apparently been given the Sandinist green light to operate again.

Though the Contras may not be ideal democrats, they too deserve some consistency of US support.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

More progress means less water in Indian drought

By Aisha Ram

NEW DELHI, (Panos): Villagers in the north-east state of Rajasthan who have been facing the effects of three to five years of prolonged drought, are pressing for a speedy restoration of successful, traditional methods of storing water which "progress" has let fall into decay.

Unfortunately, the villagers' enlightenment seems not to have reached the authorities who control the resources and technology needed to restore traditional water-collecting and storage methods. Rather, the authorities are determined to press ahead with plans to install piped water — one of the major reasons why the traditional methods have fallen into decline.

Rajasthan's dry climate has not changed drastically, but in the past even if it did not rain for two or three years, the 'baolis' (large open wells with steps), 'talavs' (huge open concrete-lined tanks), 'kuynyas' (small dug-outs where rain water is collected), and 'tanks' built into the basement of most houses, collected sufficient water to see people through the dry years.

Disuse

But, as piped water supply became both available as well as fashionable, the old, time-tested methods of catching and storing water fell into disuse. Villagers who previously collected and stored their own water became increasingly more dependent on the government for piped water. Today, as elsewhere in the

region, many of Jodhpur's traditional talavs and baolis have become the dumping grounds for the city's garbage. What is worse, the provision of piped water has led to the over-exploitation of groundwater supplies.

During 1987, Bikaner received 238mm of rain, compared with a normal rainfall level of 260mm. Although this was not much of a reduction, water has become a scarce, precious commodity in the walled city of Bikaner. When their taps are dry, people now have to pay Rs 10 (75 cents) to fill up their overhead tanks.

Famine

Udaipur — ironically known as the Lake City — is facing an unprecedented water famine. The Fateh sagar and Pichola lakes which met all the city's water needs in the past, have almost dried up.

In Jodhpur, the piped water supply is available once in two days. In Beawar, it comes once in four days. On the day when there is water in the taps there is a mad scramble to fill up buckets or any other receptacles to hand. The other days of the week water has to be brought in by rail in tankers.

Yet towns like Jodhpur and Udaipur would not be facing water-shortage crises if surface water was still collected and

Polish journalists dodge censorship

By Andrew Tarnowski

WARSAW, (Reuters): Press freedom has expanded in recent years in Poland but some well-known Polish journalists still regularly meet deep underground to plot their trade.

In a half-finished cellar under a Warsaw church they "publish" the Sunday Bell, a spoken newspaper with all the news and views not fit to print in communist-ruled Poland's officially-controlled press.

Up to 300 people pack the cellar under the Church of God's Mercy once a month to hear former-journalistic luminaries of the Solidarity era report on the burning issues of the day.

"Me and my friends come here because we don't believe everything the newspapers tell us and we want to know other things," said a middle-aged woman at the 18th "edition."

"We don't believe the press is free. Not yet."

To prove the point, journalist Katarzyna Kolodziejczyk described what she said were police baton charges against students who tried to lay flowers at a Warsaw monument on a political anniversary in March.

Clash

Such a clash was not reported in the press. Government spokesman Jerzy Urban challenged foreign correspondents who saw and reported it, saying police used no violence.

Control over the media in Poland is exercised by censors sitting in newspaper, television and radio offices to enforce a 1981 censorship law. Periodicals send proofs for scrutiny at the main Office for Control of Publications and Plays.

Articles in Catholic newspapers appear with dashes and footnotes indicating deletions and bans. Deletions have also appeared in Konfrontacje (Confrontations), a new official magazine.

At the Sunday Bell dissident journalists admit, the media enjoy substantial freedoms compared with the pre-Solidarity era and are still breaking new ground.

In January the communist weekly Polityka published a letter urging party leader Wojciech

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1593 — Henry Barrow, a puritan, is executed on charge of slandering England's Queen Elizabeth I.
- 1648 — Naples is restored to Spanish rule by Don John.
- 1664 — Alliance between Saxony and France is signed at Ratisbon.
- 1793 — Committee of public safety is established in France with dictatorial powers dominated by G.J. Danton.
- 1812 — British forces capture Badajoz in Spain.
- 1823 — French forces cross Bidassoa River and war with Spain begins.
- 1897 — Sultan of Zanzibar abolishes slavery.
- 1901 — Russia drops draft convention with China after protests by Britain and Japan.
- 1909 — US explorer Robert E. Peary reaches North Pole.
- 1917 — United States declares war on Germany.
- 1928 — Palmas Island near Philippines is awarded to Holland in arbitration of dispute with United States.
- 1945 — US naval forces score major victory over Japanese at Kyushu in World War II.
- 1948 — Central legislature of British East Africa holds first session in Nairobi.

Today in History

Jaruzelski and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to meet to save Poland from disaster. Jaruzelski opposes the idea of a meeting.

In February, Konfrontacje published an unprecedented interview with Bronislaw Geremek, a top adviser, to Walesa.

In March, the Communist Party daily Trybuna Ludu printed a letter from intellectuals accusing the Soviet Union of the World War II massacre of 15,000 Polish officers, a crime blamed by Moscow and Warsaw on the Nazis.

"Yes, there is a great advance now. There is a lot of news in the official press, especially on the economy and the environment," said Stefan Bratkowski, organizer of the Sunday Bell and former president of the Polish Journalists Association, dissolved under martial law in March 1982.

But big holes in information and restrictions on political reporting made the spoken journalism sessions still necessary.

"It's a matter of being free to comment. In the press you're not free to comment on all events," Bratkowski said.

"Our meetings are a chance for leading Polish journalists to speak freely. Most are still outsiders since 1,000 were fired under martial law."

Twenty "articles" feature in Sunday Bell "editions."

Top foreign stories this year are the troubles in Soviet Armenia and the chances of a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan.

Behind

"Our press has gone further than the Soviet press in reporting on Armenia," said a speaker. "But on every other issue our press is behind the Soviet press."

A prominent Catholic journalist outlined Pope John Paul's latest encyclical. An opposition spokesman reported on abortive efforts to regain legal status for their banned associations.

Spokesmen for rival factions of the Socialist Party, a banned non-Marxist party, detailed a party split involving charges of police infiltration.

But the most critical commentaries were aimed at the government and its economic and political reform efforts.



SOLDIERS stand guard outside a store in Panama City which reopened its doors on Monday. Nearly 50 per cent of the businesses reopened, but all of Panama's banks remained closed. (Reuter wirephoto)



EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak (right) reviews a map of the Japanese-built opera house in Cairo, which is due to have its gala opening in October. Egyptian Culture Minister Farouk Hosni (left) and the director of the opera house Magda Saleh escorted Mubarak on a tour of the complex. (Reuter wirephoto)



RESCUERS arrive at the scene where four British schoolboys fell to their deaths in the Austrian Alps on Monday near Salzburg. The boys, aged 14 and 15, had fallen while scrambling on the Untersberg. (Reuter wirephoto)



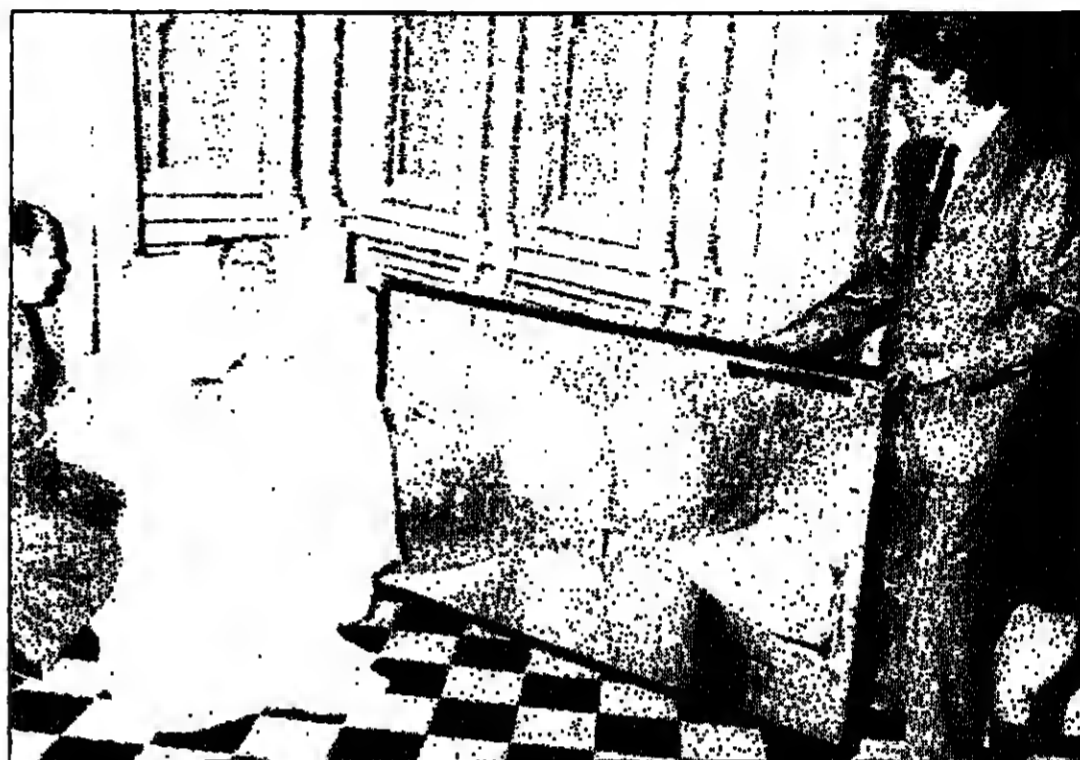
A TRUCKLOAD of lumber, two by fours, lies next to Interstate 10 in New Orleans yesterday after a tractor-trailer lost control, killing two men. The lumber knocked down a 100-foot-long sign (left). (Reuter wirephoto)



AN American soldier stands helplessly in front of a heap of scrap; the remains of a US helicopter which crashed in dense fog on a steep slope in Bissingen, West Germany. The pilot and a passenger died. (Reuter wirephoto)



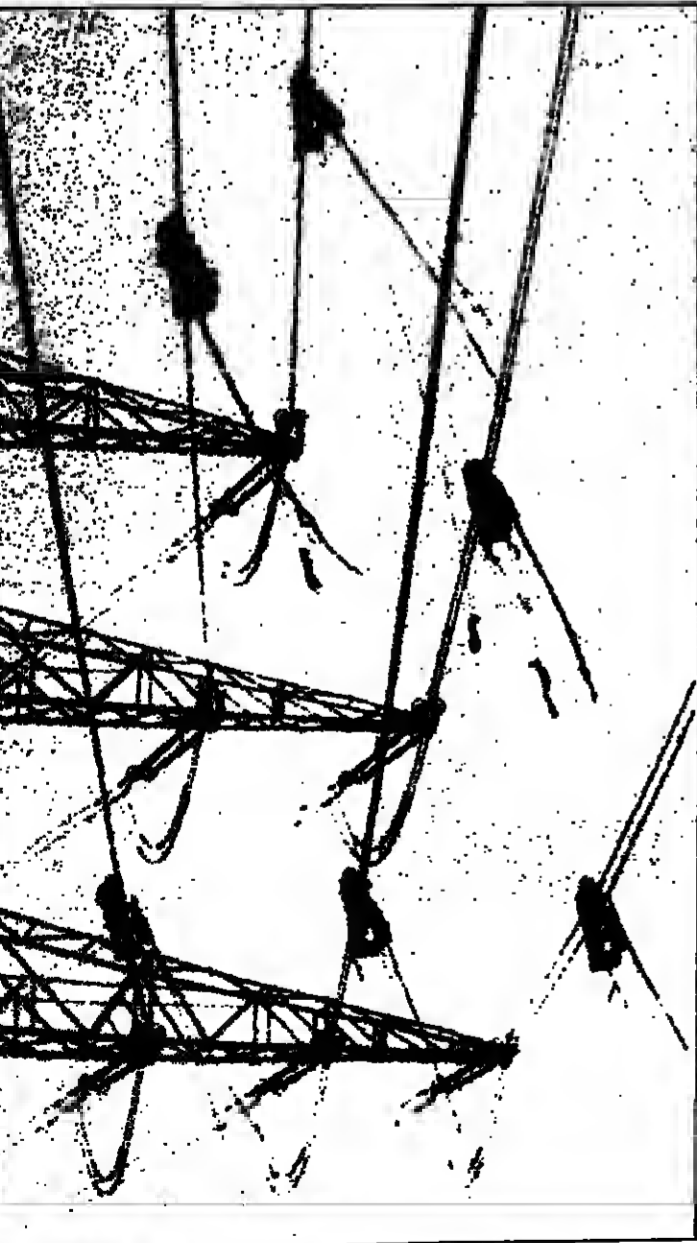
RICHARD BROCK, 16, gives a smile as he rides his bicycle in Brisbane, Australia, yesterday despite serious flooding in and around the Queensland capital after heavy rain closed highways and isolated towns. (Reuter wirephoto)



CATALAN regional President Jordi Pujol (left) visits Salvador Dali (centre) at his home in Spain, where he has remained in seclusion for several years. Dali presented the government with one of his favourite paintings, 'Birth of a Goddess.' (Reuter wirephoto)



ARTIST Angelo Camerino da Greccio shows one of his chastity belts which have found a new market among jealous husbands in southern Italy. Selling at two million lire each (\$1,600) he has made seven to order with men bringing their wives to his studio for fittings. (Reuter wirephoto)



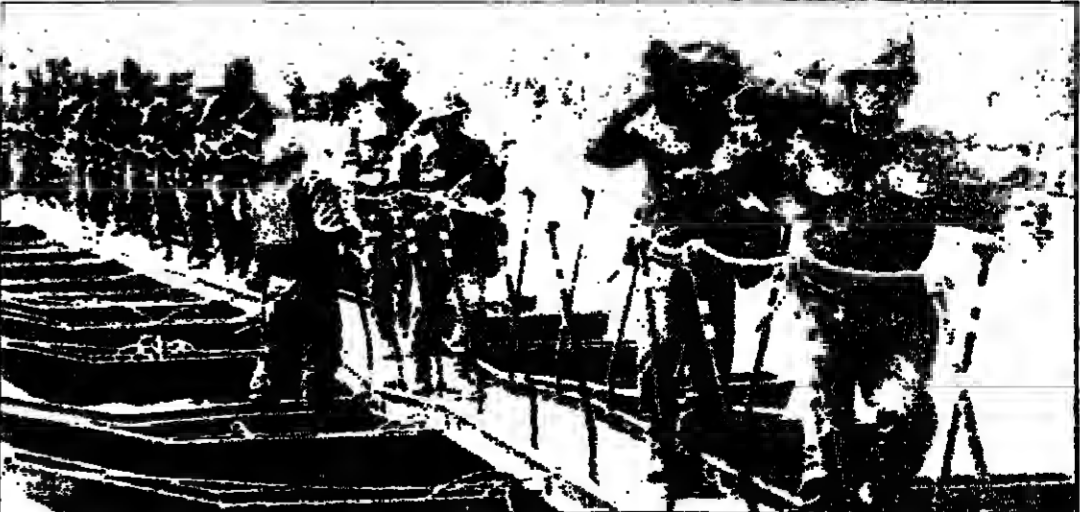
WORKERS in cabins are silhouetted against a cloudy sky as they carry out routine maintenance work on the power cables high above the ground in Echling, West Germany. (Reuter wirephoto)



SAID KAZAR from Saudi Arabia shows good form as he receives his first bull of the afternoon during his debut in Spain yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



A PHOTOGRAPH released by the mujahedeen commander Mahmoud Atail, Chief of Staff of the National Liberation Army of Iran, in his first news conference using a detailed model to brief reporters. The NLA claims to have inflicted heavy blows on the Iranian Army, loyal to Ayatollah Khomeini, in a huge offensive last month. They also claim to have killed about 4,000 troops. (Reuter wirephoto)



SOUTH KOREAN troops cross a pontoon bridge during the annual joint US and South Korean military field exercises yesterday in the northeast part of Seoul. The manoeuvre is part of the 10-week joint military exercise called 'Team Spirit 1988' involving more than 200,000 troops from both countries. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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RUMATHIYA, behind Video Alfooz, (Sulaiman Al Adani Street). One room with water, electricity and telephone facilities for Indian bachelors to share with a Muslim family. Bus routes 24, 27, 509. Rent KD80. Tele. Ismail, 5652741. (AT5-41718-3)

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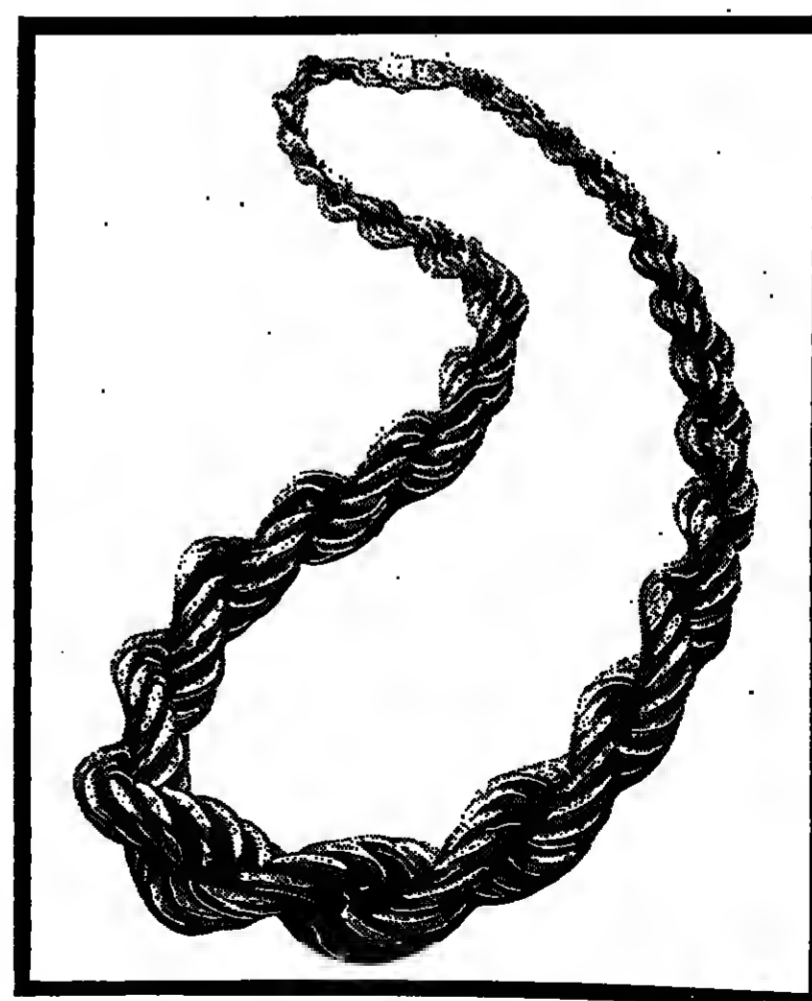
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دكانات لاصير

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1988

مشرق و مکی میں شائع ہونے والا پہلا اردو اخبار

عرب ٹائمز

بدھ ۲۶ اپریل ۱۹۸۸ء - ۱۹ شعبان ۱۴۰۸ھ - چیف ایڈیٹر احمد مجاز اللہ

[illegible]

طیبات ہنگامہ حکومت آذربائیجان، سافور میں حکمران ہندو ارکان محنت ۱۲ افراد اور ملازمین، طبیب کو اس میں نظر کر کے، اور یہی دیکھ کر، کسی کو قریب پہنچنے پر تیار ہے کہ وہ اس کے ساتھ کر دے گی وہ بھی، باقی جیسے کر دے گی بول چال عربی میں ہے۔

[illegible]

The map illustrates the geographical context of the Persian Gulf crisis. It labels major countries in the region: Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Syria. The Persian Gulf itself is highlighted with a box, and the Strait of Hormuz is also indicated. An inset map provides a broader view of the area, showing the Persian Gulf's connection to the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.

[illegible]

بیویوں میں شدید جھڑپ

[illegible][illegible]

ایک بار گزشتہ روز ایک کوئی شخص کو یہاں کا چاندیہ اپنے
 کانڈر میں سیکھ انٹراپرائیڈوں نے کانگریس کے سینئر رکن کو ہلاک کر دیا

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Lyle seeks victory at Masters

AUGUSTA, Georgia, April 5. (AP) Sandy Lyle took a day off relaxing and shopping before getting down to work for the 52nd Masters.

But a cursory stroll through Augusta's shopping malls failed to produce one item he was seeking.

"I don't have a green jacket in my wardrobe," the Scot said. "Maybe I can pick one up this weekend."

Lyle's chance of acquiring the famed green jacket that goes to the winner of the Masters, the first of the year's four big golf tournaments, was enhanced by his playoff triumph at Greensboro on Sunday.

Confidence
But it also took its toll. "It took a lot out of me," Lyle said. "Having a three-shot lead, then losing it, then fighting back, it was steamy out there."

"But the day off (yesterday) and some gentle practice the next few days should see me right," he said, in anticipation of the start of the tournament on Thursday at the Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday.

"I'm playing well now. My confidence is very high. Everything seems to be in order," he said. "And with the small field, about 50 pros who can win as opposed to the 100 in other tournaments, that improves the odds."

Lyle's second victory of the season opened other possibilities for him, possibilities such as becoming the first British player to take the American money winning title. Lyle leads with \$408,021.

"I don't expect to change things much. I'll stick to my plan, 15 or 16 tournaments in the States," said Lyle, who already has played in nine American Tour events this season.

"I have commitments in Europe that I must meet. And that is my home circuit. I must play nine tournaments there. And with 15 or 16 in the States, that's a full schedule," said Lyle, who will return to Europe after next week's heritage classic.

At the moment, however, his focus is on the elite, Invitational Masters field of 91.

With the shift in golf's balance of power in recent years, much of his most formidable opposition is contained in the 15 entrants from outside the United States.

Chief among them are Seve Ballesteros of Spain and Greg Norman of Australia, both play off losers to Larry Mize to last year's Masters, along with Ian Woosnam of Wales, winner of more than \$1.8 million in worldwide earnings last season, and 1985 Masters champion Bernhard Langer of West Germany.

The American field led by Paul Azinger, Mark McCumber, Ben Crenshaw, Tom Kite, Tom Watson, Lanny Wadkins, PGA champion Larry Nelson, Jay Haas, Curtis Strange, Payee Stewart and the only six-time Masters winner, 48-year-old Jack Nicklaus.

Huber triumphs in downhill race

TOKYO, April 5. (AP) Rudolf Huber beat Austrian compatriot Wellebald Zechner to capture the Federation of International Skiing All Japan downhill race today in Nagano, central Japan.

Huber, 25, won in 1 minute and 30.52 seconds, while Zechner finished in 1 minute and 31.19 seconds.

Eighty-seven skiers competed over the 2,478-metre Shigakogen course with a vertical drop of 650 metres.

Katsuhito Kumagai was third in 1 minute and 31.31 seconds, while Shinya Chiba was fourth in 1 minute and 31.78 seconds.

AMERICAN BASEBALL SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

Bell slams three home runs in opener

NEW YORK, April 5. (AP) Some things never change — Toronto's George Bell still is hitting home runs and Boston's bullpen still is giving them up.

Bell, Toronto's MVP and unhappy designated hitter, became the first player in baseball history to hit three home runs on opening day when he powered the Blue Jays to a 5-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals last night.

How about a big smile, George.

"I've got too many things on my mind to be happy," said Bell, who entered last year's 47-homer season with a solo shot in the second inning, a two-run homer that put Toronto ahead 3-2 in the fourth and a bases-empty homer in the eighth, all off Bret Saberhagen.

Things were supposed to be different in Boston, where the Red Sox tired of watching Wes Gardner and Calvin Schiraldi give up 32 home runs in 173 innings a year ago. They acquired fireballing Lee Smith, one of baseball's top relievers, from the Chicago Cubs.

Tigers 5, Red Sox 3
Alan Trammell's two-run homer — both runs were unearned because of an error by Bos-

ton shortstop Spike Owen — decided a game that began as a pitching duel between Roger Clemens, Boston's two-time CY Young Award winner, and Detroit's Jack Morris. A crowd of 34,781 attended at Fenway Park.

Both pitchers went nine innings, with Clemens striking out 11 and Morris fanning nine. Clemens gave up six hits, including Matt Nokes' game-tying homer in the sixth inning, and also was called for three balks.

Athletics 4, Mariners 1
Dave Stewart allowed two hits in 8 1-3 innings — a single on the first pitch of the game and a one-out single in the ninth — and Dave Henderson and Jose Canseco homered.

Brewers 12, Orioles 0
Teddy Higuera pitched three-hit ball for seven innings and Dale Sveum's two-run homer highlighted a 16-hit barrage as Milwaukee handed the Orioles their worst opening-day loss.

White Sox 8, Angels 5
Kenny Williams homered, doubled and drove in three runs before a crowd of 35,899 in Chicago. Williams, whose homer capped a three-run fifth inning, doubled to key a five-run seventh that erased a 4-3 California lead



Cardinals' catcher Tony Pena (right) waits for Reds' Bo Diaz at the plate to make the out. (Reuter wirephoto)

and spoiled the managerial debut of Cookie Rojas.

Rangers 4, Indians 3
Pete O'Brien hit second home run of the game to break a tie in the bottom of the eighth inning.

O'Brien, who hit a second-inning homer off Tom Candiotti, got his game-winning hit off Chris Codiroli

before 37,613 in Arlington. Meanwhile, a season after the year of the home run, Darryl Strawberry and the New York Mets are making this the year of the home run II.

Strawberry and Kevin McReynolds hit two home runs each as the Mets set a club record

with six homers — the most ever by any team on opening day — and beat the Montreal Expos 10-6.

If this is the time pitchers are supposed to be ahead of hitters, no one told the batters in Montreal. They got 28 hits off eight pitchers, obviously not helped by

the higher strike zone.

"Both teams got their hits today," Expos manager Buck Rodgers said. "The difference was they added the long ball to theirs."

National League pitchers also struggled with balks on opening day. Cincinnati's Mario Soto and St. Louis' Joe Magrane each were called for two balks and Dwight Gooden of the Mets and Dennis Martinez were cited once apiece as umpires began enforcing tighter balk rules.

Giants 5, Dodgers 1

Dave Dravecky pitched a three-hitter and newcomer Brett Butler had three hits as San Francisco improved to 3-0 in opening days under manager Roger Craig. The NL West champions took advantage of Los Angeles' sloppy fielding and beat Fernando Valenzuela before 48,484 at Dodger stadium.

Reds 5, Cardinals 4

Kal Daniels singled home Jeff Treadway with two outs in the bottom of the 12th as Cincinnati won its fifth straight opener at home in Riverfront stadium. Daniels, who grounded out in his first two at-bats, also hit a solo homer to the sixth inning before his winning single.

Soviets trying to recruit young talent

MOSCOW, April 5. (Reuter): Anyone for tennis?

The appeal, addressed increasingly often to millions of young Russians by television presenters and newspaper advertisements, comes now with official backing.

The Soviet Union, which for years frowned on tennis as too individualistic and aristocratic, is trying to recruit young talent capable of winning gold in the new Olympic sport.

Success
Boosted by greater promotion, tennis is enjoying a boom in the Soviet Union. More players than ever are striving for places on the few available courts and the country's top players are enjoying every-increasing success across the world.

Andrei Chesnokov, the Soviet number one and world 17, already has a number of top scalps to his name, including

Swede Mats Wilander.

Larisa Savchenko, 16th on the moneywinners' list, is a fine player on her own account and has also struck up an increasingly effective doubles partnership with Svetlana Parkhomenko.

"Tennis is a very popular sport," Soviet women's tennis coach and 1974 beaten Wimbledon finalist Olga Morozova told reporters. "I see a lot of people playing tennis. It's a lot more popular now than when I was playing."

To boost the game at the top level, a self-imposed 10-year Soviet exile from international tournaments was ended in 1985.

Soviet players were sent to the United States for coaching and an American sports management firm was hired to represent players in tournaments and win them merchandising agreements.

The players are technically

amateur and give their winnings to the Soviet tennis authorities, making them eligible to compete in Seoul for the first Olympic tennis gold medals.

The cold Soviet climate has always restricted playing opportunities at home.

But as in Sweden, the Soviet Union has refused to be deterred by its harsh climate.

Interest

They have built about 100 indoor courts in addition to 3,500 outdoor courts, according to the monthly magazine Culture and Life, although this figure remains small compared to the United States.

The Communist Party youth daily Komsomolskaya Pravda published an advertisement recently calling for players, especially youngsters, to join a tennis and athletics club in Moscow. The newspaper received 267

replies in six days.

No top professional events are staged in the Soviet Union but television coverage of Wimbledon and victories by Soviet players have increased public interest, just as the success of Bjorn Borg boosted the Swedish game.

But despite the impressive boom in the last few years, tennis has some way to go before it fully takes off. The problems of poor equipment and too few courts remain.

"Our rackets would be fine for top players ... in the 1930s," Chesnokov told Komsomolskaya Pravda.

"We have fewer indoor courts in the whole country than, say, in New York alone. There are also too few outdoor courts."

"All this creates extra difficulties for developing the mass game and getting our tennis up to international level," he said.

Roche returns to racing

MONTLHERY, France, April 5. (UPI): World cycling champion Stephen Roche returned to racing yesterday for the first time since a knee surgery in November and said he felt fine after completing nearly three-quarters of a 138-kilometre race on an auto speedway.

Roche stayed near the front of the 170 cyclists for about a dozen of the 22 laps, then slowed back into the pack and dropped out of the race after completing about 100 km.

"I feel very good. I have minor leg cramps but that's a bad habit of mine," said the Irish cyclist, who told officials of his Fagor team that his knee felt fine after the race.

Roche had not participated in a race since November, when he underwent surgery on his left knee in a clinic near Paris. Though he dismissed the operation as minor, it forced him to undergo extensive physical

therapy and kept him from racing until yesterday.

He made a surprise appearance at the Paris-Nice race in early March, but dropped out after the prologue because the knee "was still tender."

Roche told Fagor officials yesterday before the "loops of Paris" race, run on a gently sloping auto speedway with only one challenging hill, that he would not attempt to finish the contest.

Roche, who swept the Tour de France, the Tour of Italy and the World Championship Road Race last year, said he would continue a slow recuperation and would not worry about winning any races until May — but would try to go farther each time he races.

"My knee was a bit hurting and I've been back in training for a week now," he said. "It will take me about a dozen races to get back my rhythm."

Iraq is one of the best in Asia, says team coach

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5. (Kuna): Iraq will win the Group B Asian Cup soccer qualifying tournament, which starts in the Malaysian capital on Thursday, said Iraqi coach Emmanuel Baba when the 20-man team arrived here yesterday.

"Iraq is one of the best teams in Asia and I see no reason for us not winning the group," the 54-year-old Emmanuel told reporters.

The Iraqis are so sure of winning that they have only brought six of their regulars for the 12-day championship. They are Basir George, Ahmad Radhi, Ahmad Jasim, Samir Shaker, Hassan Kamal and Habib Akal.

Finished
Ahmad Radhi is the team's top striker. He scored two goals — against Mexico and Belgium — in the 1986 Mexico World Cup finals.

He also finished as the top scorer in the recent Gulf tournament.

Habib, an influential midfielder, is the livewire of the team and was voted the Best Player in the Gulf tournament.

Emmanuel said he had to leave some players in Baghdad as they need a rest after the recent Gulf

tournament.

"The seniors are tired and some of them are also injured. As we have other tournaments to play in the next few months, it's best to leave them out at the moment."

"We replaced them with 12 new players, including 10 juniors. But I'm confident that the new players will do well in the tournament," he said.

"The tournament will be good exposure for them as we are thinking of blending a team for the all-Arab tournament in May and the Seoul Olympics in September," said Emmanuel.

Iraq qualified for the Olympics for the third time when it defeated Kuwait 1-0 early this year. It played in Moscow in 1980 and Los Angeles in 1984.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian football team, which arrived in the Malaysian capital yesterday, does not know what is in store for it in the Group B Asian Cup qualifying tournament.

"I have never seen Pakistan and Japan in action. As for Malaysia, I've only seen them playing on video. Therefore, I don't know how we will fare to the tournament," said coach Ahmad M. Abu-Sheikha.

Danneberg threatens boycott

BONN, April 5. (Reuter): Olympic discus champion Rolf Danneberg said today he would boycott the first East-West Germany athletics international in June if Wolfgang Schmidt, expelled from East Germany last year, was not selected.

Schmidt, a former discus world record holder, now competes as a West German but the national athletics federation decided last week he would not be in the team for the inter-German international in Dusseldorf on June 19 and 20.

Pushed
Danneberg said: "We have to talk to the federation about this. We can't allow ourselves to be pushed around for purposes of sports politics. If the decision stays then I will decline to compete against East Germany."

The 1984 Olympic champion said he was speaking for himself and not for other West German athletes.

Schmidt, who held the world record from 1978 to 1983, was expelled from East Germany last November. In 1982 and 1983 he spent over a year in prison on charges of illegal Western contacts and of attempting to defect.

rebound and sank two free throws to give Kansas a four-point edge with 14 seconds left.

Oklahoma's Ricky Grace then raced the edge of the court and hit a spinning lay-up to close the gap to 81-79 with seven seconds remaining.

Manning was intentionally fouled after receiving the inbound pass. With five seconds on the clock, he put the game out of reach and ended Oklahoma's dream of its first national championship when he sank both foul shots for 83-79.

Kansas, which was not even expected to reach the final four, surprised Oklahoma when they came out running against the high-scoring Sooners.

Contest
The game was close throughout. The first half ended deadlocked 50-50 and with under five minutes left in the second half, the contest was still even 71-71.

Dave Siegel led Oklahoma with 22 points, including a tournament record seven three-point baskets. Kansas, with 11 losses this year, set a record of its own by becoming the championship team with the most defeats in a season.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 5. (Reuter): Collegiate superstar Danny Manning, who carried Kansas into the NCAA tournament final, last night led the Jayhawks to the National Basketball Championship with a 83-79 upset victory over Oklahoma.

Manning led all scorers with 31 points and pulled down 18 rebounds in a tremendous effort in the see-saw battle against a team that had beaten Kansas twice this season.

Regular
This was only the third time in National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament history that regular season conference rivals have met in championship game.

The 50-year-old tournament, known for wild finishes and dramatic last second heroics, did not disappoint yesterday.

Kansas guard Scooter Barry was fouled with 16 seconds left to the game and his team leading 77-77. The son of Rick Barry, one of the greatest former professional players of all time, hit his first free throw for 79-77, but missed the second.

Manning, who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, was fouled going for the

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Manning dunks the ball for two points. (Reuter wirephoto)

